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MIND YOUR H's AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR R's.

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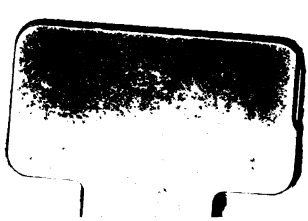

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MIND YOUR H's

AND

TAKE CARE OF YOUR R's.

EXERCISES

FOR

Acquiring the Use & Correcting the Abuse

OF THE

LETTER H.

WITH OBSERVATIONS AND ADDITIONAL EXERCISES ON

THE LETTER R.

By CHARLES WILLIAM SMITH,

PROFESSOR OF ELOCUTION,

Author of "Clerical Elocution," "Common Blunders in Speaking and Writing Corrected," &c.

"'Twas whisper'd in heaven, 'twas mutter'd in hell,
And echo caught faintly the sound as it fell:
On the confines of earth 'twas permitted to rest,
And the depths of the ocean its presence confess'd.
'Twill be found in the sphere when 'tis riven asunder,
Be seen in the lightning, and heard in the thunder.
'Twas allotted to man with his earliest breath,
Attends at his birth, and awaits him in death;
It presides o'er his happiness, honour, and health,
Is the prop of his house, and the end of his wealth.
Without it the soldier and seaman may roam,
But woe to the wretch who expels it from home.
In the whispers of conscience its voice will be found,
Nor e'en in the whirlwind of passion be drowned.
'Twill not soften the heart, and tho' deaf be the ear,
'Twill make it acutely and instantly hear.
But in the shade let it rest, like a delicate flower—
Oh! breathe on it softly, it dies in an hour."

BYRON.

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EXERCISES

FOR

ACQUIRING THE USE

AND

CORRECTING THE ABUSE

OF THE

ASPIRATE.

Of the numerous vices of pronunciation which mar the general delivery of the English language, and make it, perhaps, the most ill-spoken language in the world, the abuse of the aspirate is at once the most common, the most vulgar, and the least excusable. I say the least excusable because it does not arise from any organic defect, or even from any difficulty in its utterance as is sometimes the case with the letter *r*, for the very persons who most frequently omit the *h* where it should be sounded, often prefix it with great force to words beginning with vowels.

Faults in aspiration may be divided into five classes.

1st. Omitting the aspirate in all places where it should be given, not only at the beginning of words, but also after the *w*, and in the middle of words. This general omission is the grossest form of the fault except the

2nd., which consists in prefixing an aspiration, more or less strong, to words beginning with vowels, and sounding *h* in the few words in which it should be silent. Although those who commit the first fault *may not* commit the second, those who commit the second generally, I think I may say always, commit the first. The second fault I consider to be the extreme of *vulgarity* in pronunciation; while the first, bad as it is, is more a sign of neglected education or great carelessness in speech.

3rd. Omitting the aspirate after *w*. This is a fault much less in degree, but still highly detrimental to correct pronunciation, and is committed, by the majority of educated people, through pure negligence. See p. 23.

4th. Omitting the aspirate when it should be given in the *middle* of a word. The preceding remarks equally apply to this fault. See p. 20.

5th. Omitting the aspirate in combinations of small words. See p. 19.

These defects sometimes occasion ludicrous and even serious mistakes, of which numerous anecdotes are told at the expense of the Londoner, although they are equally characteristic of the vulgar and the uneducated in all parts of England. But it is not my design to manufacture a book out of such stories, which, however amusing to those who fondly imagine themselves to be free from faults in pronunciation, are of no use towards correcting such faults. He must, indeed, be uncommonly stupid or grossly ignorant who cannot at once see the great importance of the proper use of the aspirate, upon his defect being pointed out to him by a friend who will take the trouble to repeat a few sentences, each at first improperly, and then correctly.

When the aspirate is omitted, it materially affects the energy of the speaker, the expression of emotions and passions often depending, in a great measure, upon the degree of power with which the aspirate is uttered. This is very apparent in such words as hark, hush, heave, hope, howl, havoc, &c., and becomes strikingly so when Italian words derived from Latin words beginning with *h* are compared with English words derived from the same source, as *orrore*, *horror*, from the Latin *horreo* I dread, *umano*, *human*, Latin *humanus*—the Italian language being without the aspirate. Through this deficiency the language already soft in the extreme would become absolutely effeminate, but for the prevalence and power of the *r*, which the Italians give with a strength and vibration that cause it to form, as it were, a backbone to the language. Consonants may be styled the bones of a language, and vowels its flesh. As for perfect beauty of form in the human figure, both are required in due proportion, so are they to beauty of sound in a language. The English language, independently of its copiousness, &c., is in this respect nearer to perfection than any other modern tongue, and next after the Greek; I mean in sound, for our language is not the same in sound, when well spoken, as it appears upon paper. The English language is most expressive if properly spoken. It abounds in words which seem to paint the thing for which they stand. Of its many elements of strength the aspirate and the *r* are the most important, but unfortunately they are most villainously abused by the vulgar, the uneducated, and the refined. The two former either leave out the aspirate where it should be given, or prefix it where it should not be given—many committing both faults, while the last drop the *r*, or convert it into *w*. One robs his "'am" to enrich his "hegg," while the other "*w*enders himself *w*emarkably *w*idiculous" by his senseless

affectation. I know not which is the worse, the Wellerism of the East or the Dundrearyism of the West. "O reform it altogether." I wish I could, but as I cannot, I address myself to those who, conscious of this imperfection, wish to correct their faults, and to the rising generation, for there are immense numbers of educated persons who, from bad habit and carelessness, abuse the aspirate more or less.

By the way, I may as well caution my readers against the theatrical mode of pronouncing the letter *r*, for on the stage its sound is often exaggerated, not only by inferior actors, but also by many of superior talent.

I have never heard but of one direction given for the correction of this bugbear of English pronunciation—namely, "mind your *h's*." This is very easily said, but very difficult to follow by those in whom the fault—originating, probably, in a careless nurse, or ill-speaking companions—has, from neglect, become a habit. They will most likely mistake loudness for aspiration, as, on the other hand, many clergymen in church, and others speaking for the first time in a large building, and having rather weak or unpractised voices, have astonished their hearers by unnecessarily aspirating words in public which they would not so mispronounce in private society. This arises from an instinctive effort to be better heard. Not having sufficient power of voice, or not knowing how to use the power they possess, these gentlemen mistake aspiration for loudness as others mistake loudness for aspiration.

It is much easier for those who have fallen into bad habits to aspirate when speaking loud and high, than when soft and low, and less difficult to avoid prefixing the aspirate before vowels when speaking soft and low than when loud and high. I have, therefore, directed the respective exercises to be practised in different

degrees of power and pitch, the aspirated words being commenced loud and high and decreased in loudness and lowered in pitch on subsequent utterances; while words beginning with a vowel or a silent *h* are to be commenced soft and low, and the power increased and the pitch raised upon the following utterances.

I must remark that it is a common mistake to confound *pitch* with *power*. *High* and *low* refer to the degrees of pitch, or the acuteness and gravity of sounds, and *loud* and *soft* to the degrees of power. You may speak in a large room upon the *lowest* pitch of your voice, and be heard if you use sufficient power, and upon your *highest* pitch in a small room without annoying your hearers, if you use power only sufficient to fill the place. The power or *loudness* should be proportioned to the size of the place in which you speak, and the number of the audience—much clothing, especially woollen, absorbing sound—and the *pitch* according to the expression of the language.

I must also observe that although in practising the exercises the aspirate is to be given strongly, in ordinary speaking all effort should be avoided. He who labours at his *h's* betrays the consciousness of defect.

Smart says:—"It is sometimes denied that *h* is properly called a consonant;—*h* is a strong propulsion of breath unvocalized, which becomes vocal in the vowel element that follows;—whether this is a consonant, depends on what we choose shall be the definition of a consonant; a point of no moment, if the nature and effect of *h* is practically understood."

Professor Day, of Yale College, Connecticut, speaking of the orotund, guttural, and aspirated *qualities* of voice, says:—"The aspirated voice is simply the emission of vocalized with unvocalized breath. The function of the

aspirate is to give intensity to certain kinds of passionate expression, as of terror, surprise, wonder, distress, horror, and scorn. The aspiration may be in all degrees, from very slight to total. When very slight even, it gives a decided colouring to delivery; and when the voice gives way to the mere whisper, we have the highest degree of passionate expression."

Some years ago I discovered a simple mode of testing aspiration. *It consists in holding a finger perpendicularly before and about three inches from the mouth, while repeating words which should be aspirated and words beginning with vowels. If aspiration be given, however gently, the unvocalized breath will be distinctly felt against the finger, but not if the word be merely uttered loudly.*

It has often been remarked with surprise that the natives of Ireland always apply the aspirate correctly, not only at the beginning of words, but also after *w*, and in the middle of words. This excellence has doubtless originated chiefly in the national mode of pronouncing the name of the aspirate; for, whereas in England children are taught to call it *aitch*, in Ireland they learn to call it *haitch*, in fact aspirating the name of the aspirate. Thus an English child is taught to spell "hat," *aitch, aye, tee,* "hat"—a contradiction in sound—while the Irish child learns to spell it, *haitch, aye, tèe,* "hat," which is philosophically correct, and he consequently early acquires a habit of aspirating in the proper place. I would strongly advise all teachers to instruct their pupils to call the aspirate by its proper name, *haitch.*

It is to be observed that in all elocutionary practice, "the position of the reader or speaker is of very great importance. If the lungs be contracted by stooping or lolling, their action is impeded, and the voice is

affected, especially by decrease of power and vibration. Therefore, the student should keep easily upright, whether standing or sitting, but he must avoid that ungraceful, perpendicular position which is vulgarly, but expressively called 'bolt upright.' The chest must be expanded, and the shoulders thrown back and kept depressed. If sitting, the student may lean against the chair, but he must not loll lazily, and the top-piece of the chair should be used as a support, being beneath the shoulder-blades. If sitting, the seat must be firm; and if standing, the legs must be firmly planted on the floor, the right foot being a few inches in advance of the left, and the toes turned a little outwards. The head should be held easily erect; neither thrown back, nor bent forward by stooping, as either position interferes with the free and proper action of the organs of voice. The common but bad habit of nodding the head while speaking should be carefully avoided or corrected, for besides the ridiculous effect it produces, it interferes very much with the smoothness and continuity of the voice."

"The mouth must be well opened, but not too wide. If it be not opened wide enough, the voice, however well formed by the proper organs, is rendered dull instead of being resonant; and its power is greatly reduced for want of having free and sufficient outlet. But if the mouth be opened too wide, a coarse, 'mouthing' tone is produced, and the features are distorted, instead of being calm, animated, or expressive, as the language may require. In each case, the articulation is injured. The fault of not opening the mouth wide enough is very common, especially among certain fashionable people, who mince the English language and destroy its vigour by their senseless and effeminate affectation. Opening the mouth too wide is chiefly the fault of bad actors. Few persons in private life are likely to fall into this

error, and may, therefore, safely open their mouths much wider than most people generally do. The student may know, if he carefully listens to the sound of his own voice, when he is opening the mouth too wide, by the unnatural coarseness of the sound, and when not sufficiently wide by its dull, indistinct sound. He will understand the subject better by carefully listening to the sound of the voices, and observing the opening of the mouths of different speakers both good, bad, and indifferent—public as well as private—and comparing them with each other, and testing them by the preceding observations. A good teacher will, of course, be of still greater benefit." *

Take breath quietly. Avoid all gasping or drawing in of the breath with perceptible effort. Generally, the lungs will supply themselves with breath, if you only give them time to do so, by pausing in the proper places. To hurry on, phrase after phrase, without allowing yourself time to breathe, is not only very disagreeable to your hearers, but highly injurious to your lungs. If you distress yourself, your hearers will feel your uneasiness. For so strong is the sympathy between the organs of speech and those of hearing, that the least uneasiness in the one is immediately perceived by the other. Reading aloud, long continued, with the lungs but partially distended, is very injurious to these organs; it is apt to occasion a spitting of blood, which is often a precursor of pulmonary consumption. But reading aloud, with proper management of the breath, is a healthful exercise. Besides strengthening the muscles which it calls into action, it promotes the decarbonization of the blood, and consequently exerts a salutary influence on the system generally.

The lips should perform their proper part, not only

* "Clerical Elocution."

in the emission of the voice, but in the articulation of words. English people (by which I mean all to whom the English language is the native tongue) do not use the lips sufficiently in speaking. This arises from habit and conventional imitation, not from the nature of the language. Foreigners in general use the lips much more—some too much. The French use the lips well, but they do not produce the voice properly. It is too much softened, and may be called a *lip*-voice, in contra-distinction to the *throat*-voice of the Germans.

Speak in your own natural voice. Do not assume an artificial one, nor imitate the peculiarity of another person's voice. That which sits well upon him, and, in fact, forms part of his idiosyncrasy, will be unnatural if assumed by you. Seek to improve the good qualities of your own voice, and to correct its faults, but still let it be your own voice. Observe how you form those tones which your judgement, after some practice, will tell you are natural.

The following Exercises being arranged progressively, it is essential to their proper understanding that they be practised in regular order. Even those persons who, being generally correct in their use of the aspirate, only require to practice *some* of the Exercises should *read all* in their regular order, or they may fail to thoroughly understand those which they do require.

Every H which should be *aspirated* is printed with a ROMAN CAPITAL, as a guide to the reader.

Every *h* which should be *silent* is printed in *italic*.

Every initial vowel is printed in *italic* in order to guard the reader against prefixing an aspirate.

EXERCISE I.

H at the beginning of words.

Repeat each of the following words three times, holding a finger perpendicularly about three inches from your mouth, taking great care to give the aspirate, and not to merely speak loudly. You will know when you are giving the aspirate, by feeling the unvocalized breath touch your finger.

Take only a few words at a time for one practice. Repeat each word three times; the first time loudly in a high pitch; again, not so loudly, in your middle pitch; and then again not louder than is necessary to be heard clearly in a small room, and in a low pitch.

Make a distinct pause and take a little breath—not a full inspiration—before each word.

Habit, hack, hag, halo, hamlet, hammer, hammock, hamper, hang, hank, harangue, harbour, hard, harem, harmony, harp, harpoon, harsh, harvest, hassock, haste, hate, haunch, haunt, have, haven, havoc, hawk, hay, hazard, hazel.

Head, health, heap, hearken, hearth, hearty, heath, heathen, heather, heaven, heavy, hebrew, hecatomb, hectic, heed, heifer, height, heinous, helm, helot, help, hem, hemp, her, herald, hereditary, heresy, hermit, heroine, herring, hesitate.

Hibernian, hickory, hide, hilary, hilt, him, hind, hinder, hindoo, hinge, hint, hip, hire, hiss, hither, hive.

Hoar, hoard, hoarse, hob, hobble, hock, hoe, hog, hoiden, hoist, hole, hollow, holland, homage, home, homicide, homily, hone, hood, hook, hoop, hoot, horizon, horn, horticulture, hosanna, hospitable, hospital, host, hostage, hostile, hotel, hound, hovel.

Huckaback, huckster, huddle, hue, huff, hug, huge, hulk, hull, hum, human, humane, humid, humble, humility, humor (animal fluid), hump, hunch, hundred, hunger, hurdle, hurricane, hurry, hurt, husband, hush, hussar, hussy, hustings, hutch.

Hyacinth, hybrid, hydrangea, hydraulic, hydrogen, hyena, hymen, hymn, hyphen, hyson, hyssop, hysteric.

EXERCISE II.

Sentences composed of words beginning with H aspirated, mixed with words which do not begin with a vowel.

First, take each aspirated word in the sentence and repeat it three times as directed in the preceding Exercise, using a finger as there directed; and then repeat the whole sentence three or four times, the first time loudly, in a high pitch, and then less loudly and lower each time, taking great care to watch that you give the aspirate firmly but easily. Afterwards, repeat the sentence without using the finger.

Hail, happy harbinger. Heigh-ho! said he.
Bring me my hat. He has hurt himself.
Hence! horrible shadow, hence!
How many hares has he had?
He said you should hear from him.
Tell Harriet to dress some haddocks.
Have you hunted with his harriers?
Has he heard from him since he sailed?
How much honey have his hives produced?
He distinguished himself highly by leading the forlorn hope.
The horse's hoof hit her head.
Hampstead Heath stands very high.

EXERCISE III.

Words beginning with vowels.

Repeat each of the following words thus:—

First, pronounce the word not louder than is necessary to be heard clearly in a small room and in a low pitch, then repeat it moderately loud and in your middle pitch, and then again louder and higher, using a finger as in the preceding Exercises and taking great care *not* to prefix an aspirate. You will know when you are aspirating, if you should fall into that error, by feeling the breath on your finger. So long as you do *not* feel the breath you are uttering the words correctly.

*A*ce, *A*che, *A*cid, *A*cre, *A*ct, *A*dd, *A*ge, *A*h, *A*id, *A*llow, *A*lps, *A*lso, *A*muse, *A*n, *A*nchor, *A*nkle, *A*nswer, *A*nt, *A*pe, *A*pple, *A*rch, *A*rk, *A*rbour, *A*rea, *A*rgue, *A*rmy, *A*uthor, *A*sh, *A*sk, *A*xe.

*E*ach, *E*arl, *E*arn, *E*arth, *E*ase, *E*ast, *E*bb, *E*lastic, *E*lection, *E*lse, *E*mphasis, *E*mpty, *E*nough, *E*nd, *E*ntire, *E*nvy, *E*pic, *E*pisode, *E*rror, *E*ssay, *E*ven, *E*vil, *E*xcel, *E*xclaim, *E*xercise, *E*xcuse.

*I*ce, *I*dle, *I*llustrate, *I*mage, *I*mitate, *I*mperfect, *I*mply, *I*mpress, *I*mprudent, *I*mprove, *I*n, *I*nch, *I*ncident, *I*ncline, *I*ncome, *I*ncomplete, *I*nconsistent, *I*nconstant, *I*ndeed, *I*ndex, *I*ndian, *I*ndifferent, *I*ndulge, *I*nfamous, *I*nfantry, *I*nsane, *I*nsect, *I*sle, *I*nsolent.

*O*ak, *O*ar, *O*at, *O*ath, *O*belisk, *O*bey, *O*bject, *O*blige, *O*bstinate, *O*cean, *O*dd, *O*f (*ov*), *O*ff, *O*ffer, *O*ffice, *O*h, *O*il, *O*mnibus, *O*n, *O*nion, *O*nly, *O*oze, *O*pen, *O*pposite, *O*ptics, *O*range, *O*rb, *O*rchard, *O*rder, *O*rgan, *O*rnament, *O*ther, *O*unce, *O*ut, *O*wn, *O*yster.

*U*gly, *U*mbrage, *U*mpire, *U*naffected, *U*nassuming, *U*nbend, *U*ncivil, *U*neasy, *U*nfortunate, *U*ngraceful, *U*nless, *U*ntil, *U*nutterable, *U*p, *U*pset, *U*rn, *U*s, *U*se.

EXERCISE IV.

Sentences containing words beginning with vowels, but not comprising any words requiring aspiration.

First, repeat each word in each sentence beginning with a vowel three times, as directed in the preceding Exercise, using the finger as directed in Exercise I., and then repeat the whole sentence three times, the first time not louder than is necessary to be heard clearly in a small room and in a low pitch, the second time louder and in your middle pitch, and then again louder and higher, taking great care that you do *not* prefix an aspirate to any word beginning with a vowel. Afterwards, repeat the sentence without using the finger.

A very *e*legant set *o*f *i*vory *a*nd *e*bony chessmen.

*I*t *i*s *a* pleasant *a*fternoon. *A*n *o*ld *a*lmanack.

*A*re you *e*ngaged this *e*vening? *I*s *i*t *a*ired?

*E*urope, *A*sia, *A*frica, *a*nd *A*merica.

*I*t *i*s *a*n *e*very-day *o*ccurrence.

*A*ustralia, *a*lthough *a*n *i*sland, *i*s, from *i*ts *i*mmense *e*xtent, *a*ccounted *a*s *a* continent.

I saw the *E*mperor *a*nd *E*mpress *o*f *A*ustria *a*t *E*ms.

*E*migration from *I*reland *i*s largely *o*n the *i*ncrease.

Demosthenes, the *A*thenian *O*rator, was *a*fflicted with *a*n *i*mpediment, but *o*vercame *i*t by *i*ndomitable *e*nergy *a*nd perseverance.

The *a*rt *o*f *e*locution *i*s *a*lmost generally neglected *i*n *E*ngland, *a*lthough *a*ll must *a*dmit that *i*t *i*s *o*f *i*nfinite *i*mportance to *e*very public speaker, *a*nd *a*lso *a*n *e*legant *a*ccomplishment for *o*thers.

The practice *o*f *e*xecuting mere mechanical *e*xercises *i*s *e*ssential to the *a*ttainment *o*f *e*xcellence *i*n reading *a*nd speaking, *e*qually *a*s *i*n *a*ll the fine *a*rts.

EXERCISE V.

Words beginning with H and a vowel alternately.

Repeat each word of each couple three times moderately loud and in your middle pitch, using the finger as directed in Exercise I. Then repeat each couple of words three times in the same manner, making a distinct pause between each word. You must particularly observe that the breath should be clearly felt on the finger at the utterance of each aspirated word, but *not* at the others. Afterwards, repeat the words faster and with only a slight pause between them. Speak some couples with no more power than is necessary to be heard clearly in a small room and in a low pitch, and speak others with greater degrees of power and in higher pitches of voice, so as to acquire the power of speaking high and loud without improperly prefixing an aspirate to a vowel, and low and gently without omitting the aspirate where it ought to be given.

Hail or HALE—*a*le. HARE or HAIR—*a*ir or *e*re (air). HALL or HAUL—*a*ll or *a*wl. HAM—*a*m. HAND—*a*nd. HARK—*a*rk. HARM—*a*rm. HARROW—*a*rrow. HART or HEART—*a*rt. HASH—*a*sh. HASP—*a*sp. HAT—*a*t. HAY—*a* or *a*ye (always).

Heal or HEEL—*e*el. HEAT—*e*at. HEAR or HERE—*e*ar. HEAVE—*e*ve. HEDGE—*e*dge.

Hie or HIGH—*I* or *e*ye. HILL—*i*ll. HITCH—*i*tch.

Hoax—*o*aks. HOLD—*o*ld. HOTTER—*o*tter. HOWL—*o*wl. Humber (the river)—*u*mber (the colour). HURL—*e*arl. HURST (a wood)—*e*rst (first). HUSK—*U*sk (the river). HUT—*u*tter.

EXERCISE VI.

Sentences comprising words beginning with H, aspirated, and words beginning with vowels.

First, repeat each word which should be aspirated, and each word beginning with a vowel, in the order in which they occur in the sentence, three times, as directed in the preceding Exercises; then repeat each sentence three times in different degrees of power and pitch as directed in the last sentence of the preceding Exercise, still using the finger; afterwards repeat the sentence without using the finger.

Have you HIS *a*ddress? He *e*ats HEARTILY.
*A*s *i*gnorant *a*s *a* Hottentot. *A*n *e*xcellent HACK.
*I*s your *u*ncle *a*t HOME? *A* HERD *o*f OXEN.
Have you *a*ny HORSES *o*n HIRE? *A*n *I*rish HODMAN.
Her *a*unt *i*s very HASTY. *A*n* HEROIC *a*ction.
The HIGHEST *a*rt *i*s to conceal *a*rt.
The *a*tmosphere *i*s very HEAVY.
How HEARTLESS *a*nd *a*rtificial HE *i*s!
I *a*lways *e*njoy *e*xcellent HEALTH.

* When the indefinite article is to be placed before a word, *a* or *an* is employed according as the one or the other can be more readily formed by the organs of speech, and as it is more agreeable to the ear when pronounced along with the word which follows. Therefore, *a* is used before words beginning with a consonant, as *a* book, *a* hero; the sounds of *w* and *y*, and the long sound of *u*, as *a* youth, such *a* one, *a* eunuch, *a* unit, *a* university. *An*, which is used before words beginning with a vowel or silent *h*, as *an* army, *an* honest man, must also be used before *h* aspirated when the accent is on the *second* syllable, as *an* heroic action, *an* historical account.

He has had *a* severe *i*llness.

Has he *a*ny one with him?

The *e*state *i*s surrounded by *a* ha-ha.

It was *a* sight hideous *a*nd hateful to the *e*ye.

I *a*m very fond *o*f *e*ggs *a*nd ham.

This hot *a*fternoon has given me *a* head-*a*che.

Had he *a*ny *i*dea *o*f going *a*broad?

The hen has hatched *e*ight *o*ut *o*f *e*leven *e*ggs.

Have you heard Meyerbeer's *o*pera *o*f the Huguenots?

How do you like *o*ur home-made bread?

My husband will call *a*t your house *o*n his way home.

His brother Henry *i*ntends to settle *a*t the Cape *o*f Good Hope.

Did you *e*ver hear Handel's *o*ratorio *o*f *I*srael *i*n *E*gypt?

His *u*ncle has left him *e*xtensive *e*states *i*n Hampshire, *E*ssex, Herefordshire, *a*nd *I*reland.

He *o*ught to have had *i*t done before.

He *i*s very *i*nconstant *i*n his *a*ttachments.

Her conduct *i*s very heartless.

These *o*ysters *a*re very hard to *o*pen.

Misapplying the *a*spirate *i*s *a* very vulgar habit.

The horn *o*f the hunter *i*s heard *o*n the hill.

He *a*te heartily *o*f *a*rtichokes.

He hid *i*t *u*nder *a* hawthorn hedge.

The *o*x hurt the horse *o*n the hough (pronounced *hock*, in which way it is often improperly spelled).

He *i*s habitually hasty *i*n his temper, *a*nd *u*npunctual *i*n his *a*ttendance.

Has the haberdasher sent the handkerchiefs?

There *i*s *a* high holly hedge *i*n front *o*f his house.

EXERCISE VII.

Sentences comprising monosyllabic words aspirated, and monosyllabic words beginning with vowels.

This exercise is to be practised exactly as the preceding.

I form it into a distinct Exercise on account of the great difficulty of pronouncing such sentences correctly without the appearance of effort and pedantry. It is almost impossible to utter some similar everyday combinations, at once correctly and easily. I would, therefore, strongly recommend the practice of this Exercise even to those persons who feel that they do not omit the aspirate in other positions.

*I*s he *a*t home? *I*s *i*t to be had?
*I*t *i*s his *o*wn. *I*t *i*s *o*ff *i*ts hinges.
*I*t *i*s her's. How high *i*s that hill?
*I*s the *i*ce *a*s hard there *a*s *i*t *i*s here?
The house *i*s *o*n the hill.
*A*nd he had *i*t. *I*s *i*t he?
I have *e*ver had *i*t.
Had he had *i*t? *I*s Sir Hugh *a*t home?
*I*s *i*t to be had here? How hot *i*t *i*s here!
How *i*s he to have *i*t? *I*t hung *o*n *a* hedge.
He cried "Ho!" to him. *I*s my hat here?
He *i*s *a*ll for high *a*rt. He hit *i*t.
How hard the *i*ce *i*s here. *I*t *i*s he.
Have you *a*ny *e*els *i*n the house?
*I*t *i*s so hot *i*n the house. How *i*s *i*t *e*aten?
He wears high-heeled boots *i*n *o*rder to seem higher.
I will see him *a*t his *o*wn home.
The house *i*s covered *a*ll *o*ver with *I*rish *i*vy.
There *i*s neither heart nor *a*rt *i*n his works.

EXERCISE VIII.

H aspirated in the middle of words and in the second part of compounded words.

Repeat the part of the word beginning with *h* as "here" in the first example, three times loudly, and then repeat the whole word slowly three times, with a distinct pause between the first part of the word and that part commencing with the aspirated *h* thus, "ad-here." Then repeat the whole word three times, rather faster, without making any pause in the middle but with a pause between each utterance of the whole word. Use the finger during this practice, and then repeat the word without using the finger.

It is astonishing that so eminent a lexicographer as Dr. Johnson should have made the extraordinary mistake contained in the following passage in the "Grammar to the English Tongue," prefixed to his dictionary:—"H seldom, perhaps never, begins any but the first syllable." In an essay in the *Public Advertiser*, the celebrated politician Wilkes enumerated many instances in opposition to the observation, and sarcastically remarked that, "The author of this observation must be a man of quick *apprehension* and of a most *comprehensive* genius." In the third edition published in 1773, Dr. Johnson left out the words, "perhaps never," and added the following, "It sometimes begins middle or final syllables in words compounded, as *blockhead*, or derived from the Latin, as *comprehended*."

Adhere, Adhesion, Adhesive, Annihilate, Apprehend.

Behalf, Behave, Behead, Behemoth, Behest, Behind, Behold, Behove, Behoof, Bohea, Boyhood.

Cohabit, Cohere, Cohesive, Cohort, Comprehend.

Dishearten, Disinherit.

*E*nhance, *E*nharmonic, *E*xhale, *E*xhaust, *E*xhibit, *E*xhilarate, *E*xhort, *E*xhumation.

Fish-hook, Forehand, Forehead, Forehorse.

Horehound, Household.

*I*nhabit, *I*nhale, *I*nhere, *I*nherit, *I*nhibit, *I*nharmonious, *I*nhospitable, *I*nhuman.

Mahogany, Mahomet, Manhood, Misapprehension, Misbehave, Mishap, Mohair, Mohawk.

*O*utherod, *O*uthouse, *O*verhang, *O*verhasty, *O*verhaul, *O*verhead, *O*verhear.

Philharmonic, Pothook, Prehensible, Prohibit.

Rehabilitate, Rehear, Rehearse.

Shepherd, Sparrow-hawk, Superhuman—Tomahawk.

*U*nhallow, *U*nhand, *U*nhandsome, *U*nhang, *U*nhappy, *U*nharmed, *U*nharness, *U*nhealthy, *U*nheard, *U*nheeded, *U*nhesitatingly, *U*nhewn, *U*nhinge, *U*nholy, *U*nhook, *U*nhoped, *U*nhorse, *U*nhouse (houz), *U*nhumbled, *U*nhurt, *U*ninhabitable, *U*pheave, *U*phill, *U*phold, *U*pholsterer—Vehement, Vehicle.

EXERCISE IX.

Sentences containing words with H aspirated in the middle, and compounded words with the aspirate commencing the second half of the compounded word, words beginning with H aspirated, and words beginning with vowels.

Repeat each word which should be aspirated at the beginning, each word with an aspirated *h* in the middle, and each word beginning with a vowel, in the order in which they occur according to the directions given for aspirated words in Exercise I., for words beginning with vowels in Exercise III., and for words aspirated in the middle according to the preceding

Exercise. Then repeat each sentence three times, in different degrees of power and pitch, as previously directed, still using the finger; afterwards, repeat the sentence without using the finger.

I consider *it* very *un*HANDSOME BEHAVIOUR.

They *are un*HOOKING the train from the *en*GINE.

He HAS *in*HERITED *an extensive estate in* HERTFORDSHIRE.

Do you *up*HOLD that *o*PINION?

I am much BEHOLDEN to you.

Is the HOUSE *in*HABITED?

*I ab*HOR HIM *in*TENSELY.

This *is an elegant* PENHOLDER.

*I ad*HERE to my *o*RIGINAL *in*TENTION.

The *a*RCHBISHOP HAS *in*HIBITED HIM from preaching *in* HIS diocese.

You will BEHOLD *an extensive* prospect *if* you *a*SCEND to the summit *of* the HILL.

Have you been to see the BUCKHURST HILL HUNT?

The *in*HABITANTS *all* fled from their HOUSES *on* the *a*PPROACH *of* the *e*NEMY.

He *acted in a* very *un*DERHAND manner.

I am going to the *up*HOLSTERERS to *o*RDER *a* HORSE-HAIR mattress.

It was *a* very *un*HAPPY *ex*HIBITION *of* temper.

His *e*NERGY *a*PPEARS *a*LMOST SUPER*n*UMAN.

He was *un*HORSED *at* the foot *of* the HILL.

He was *a*LMOST *ex*HAUSTED with HIS *ex*ERTIONS.

He *ex*HIBITED some splendid specimens *of* HOLLYHOCKS *at* the Horticultural Society's *E*XHIBITION.

I HAVE HAD *a* HOGSHEAD *of* cider sent to me from Herefordshire.

He left *all* the *o*THER HORSES BEHIND.

Have you *any* HARTSHORN *in* the HOUSE?

It is a HIGHLY *ex*HILARATING *ex*ERCISE.

EXERCISE X.

Words with H aspirated after W.

Very many educated persons who never commit the fault of misplacing the aspirate at the beginning of a word, omit it when it occurs after the letter *w*. I would, therefore, advise all persons to test themselves by repeating the following words accompanied by the use of the finger. If the pronunciation be found deficient even but upon one of the words, the whole Exercise and the one following should be frequently practised, as the omission of the aspirate in one such word may otherwise lead to its omission in others.

This Exercise should be practised precisely as Exercise I.

WHale, WHarf, WHat, WHeat, WHeedle, WHeeze, WHelk, WHelp, WHen, WHence, WHere, WHerry, WHet, WHether, WHey, WHich, WHiff, WHig, WHite, WHim, WHimbrel (a bird like the curlew), WHimper, WHin, WHine, WHinny, WHip, WHirr (to fly with noise), WHirl, WHirlwind, WHisk, WHisky, WHisper, WHist, WHistle, WHit, WHite, WHither, WHiting, WHit, WHittle, WHiz, WHo, WHose, WHom, WHole, WHoop, WHoot (to hoot), WHorl, WHy.

EXERCISE XI.

Sentences containing words with H aspirated after W, words beginning with H aspirated, and words beginning with vowels.

This Exercise is to be practised as Exercise VI.

WHat do you think? WHo HAS called?
WHen did HE come? WHy do you HESITATE?
WHile HE was HERE. WHere HAS HE been?

He HAS painted HIS HOUSE WHITE.
Shall we HAVE *a* rubber *at* WHIST?
WHERE *is* my HAT? WHOSE HAT *is* this?
WHO *is* HE? WHICH *is it* to be?
WHO *is* that WHISTLING *in* the HALL?
WHEN do you *e*xpect your *u*ncle Henry HOME?
I had some *e*xquisite WHISKY WHILE *I* was *i*n the Highlands.
WHEN *a*nd WHERE shall *I* see you *a*gain?
WHICH *is* the HIGHEST HILL you *e*ver *a*scended?
WHOM do you *e*xpect to HAVE *at* your HOUSE this *e*vening?
WHICH *o*f the three *w*itches *i*n your *o*pinion was best *a*cted?
WHAT did you give for that HUGE WHETSTONE?
WHAT *a*n *a*bsurd HABIT the *A*mericans HAVE of WHITTLING!
WHY did HE *a*llow HIMSELF to be *i*nsulted *i*n HIS *o*wn HOUSE with *i*mpunity?
I HAVE just HAD *a* present made me *o*f half-*a*-dozen bottles *o*f *I*rish WHISKY.
To "WHUR" *is* to sound "r" very roughly; *it a*lso occurs substantively.
A WHORTLEBERRY *is* the HEATH-BERRY, *e*ither fruit *o*r plant, provincially called WHORT *o*r WHURT.
"WHALLY" *is a*n *a*djective, meaning diseased so *a*s to show too much WHITE—said *o*f the *e*yes.

EXERCISE XII.

The silent *H*.

The *h* in each of the following words and their other derivatives was formerly silent; heir, heiress, heirloom; herb, herbage; honest, honesty, honestly; honour, honourable, honourably, honorary; hospital; hostler;

hour, hourly; humor, humorist, humorously; humble, humility; and to aspirate any of them was considered as gross a fault as to prefix an aspirate to a vowel. But the fashion of pronunciation has altered, and some of these words are now aspirated. Nevertheless, great difference of opinion exists among the best authorities. Smart aspirates "herb" and all its derivatives, very properly, I think, for the word is directly derived from the Latin "herba;" but Dr. Noah Webster, while aspirating all the derivatives, most inconsistently makes the *h* silent in "herb." Again, Smart makes the *h* silent in "humble," although it is now aspirated by the most highly educated and refined; and he acknowledges that the custom of the best circles, both scholarly and fashionable, is the chief, and often the only law of English pronunciation. Smart also makes the *h* silent in "hostler," while Dr. Webster aspirates the word, very properly I think, for it is a corruption of "hosteller," an innkeeper or host of an inn.

I know of no good reason why any of the above few words should be deprived of the aspirate, and pronounced differently to their fellows, but as all-potent custom denies the aspirate to them, we must obey. But however desirable it would be to remove all these exceptions, so powerful is habit in pronunciation, that to aspirate some of these words at present, would be highly unpleasant to a polished ear. Nevertheless, when custom changes, as in the above instances, I think it well to follow, in this case, a good example, for by so doing we may, in course of time, remove the few exceptions which trouble many persons without improving the language.

I would therefore limit the silent *h* to the following words, upon which nearly all authorities are agreed; *h*eir, *h*eiress, *h*eirloom; *h*onest, *h*onesty, *h*onestly; *h*onour, *h*onourable, *h*onourably, *h*onorary; *h*our, *h*ourly;

*h*umour, *h*umorous, *h*umorously, and their other derivatives.

These words and the following should be practised according to the directions given in Exercise III.

" H " is also silent in the following words though not initial :—ast*h*ma, dis*h*abille, ist*h*mus, r*h*apsody, r*h*etoric, r*h*eumatism, R*h*ine, r*h*inoceros, r*h*omb, r*h*ubarb, r*h*yme, r*h*ythm, T*h*ames, T*h*omas. Also, in such words as catarr*h*, Mica*h*, Sara*h*, &c.

" Humble-pie " is an incorrect spelling of " umble-pie," a pie made of " umbles," a plural noun, meaning a deer's entrails, probably derived from the Latin *umbilicus*, the " navel." " Umbilic," was once used substantively for the " navel." Thus, to " eat umble-pie," is to eat of the poorest dish. The *h* is a wrong spelling, and should be omitted.

" Humble-bee," a bee of a large kind, with no sting, corruptly called " bumble-bee " in some parts of the country, is not related to the word " humble," signifying " humility," but is derived from the verb " to hum," and consequently has always had the *h* aspirated. " Humming-bird " is derived from the same verb.

EXERCISE XIII.

Sentences containing words beginning with, or having *h* silent in the first syllable, words beginning with vowels, and words beginning with H aspirated.

This Exercise must be practised as directed for Exercise VI. especial care being taken *not* to aspirate the words beginning with or containing *h* silent.

How many *h*ours were you coming HERE?

He *is* in *an* excellent *h*umour.
He *is h*eir to *a*ll his *u*ncle's *e*states.
*H*onesty *is* the best policy.
His descriptions *a*re highly *h*umorous.
They *e*xpect him home *h*ourly.
*It is h*onestly worth *a*ll he *a*sks for *it*.
*It is an h*eirloom *i*n his family.
She *is* sole *h*eiress to her *a*unt.
He *is* one *o*f the most *h*onest *a*nd *h*onourable men *I e*ver had the *h*onour to know.
The *U*niversity *o*f *O*xford has conferred the *h*onorary degree *o*f D.C.L. *u*pon him.
He has the ast*h*ma *a*nd r*h*eumatism.
His *o*ration was nothing but *a* r*h*etorical r*h*apsody.
Have you *e*ver been *u*p the R*h*ine?
How the r*h*ubarb has grown!

EXERCISE XIV.

Sentences containing *h* silent in the middle of words, words beginning with H aspirated, and words beginning with vowels.

H silent in the middle of a word, only occurs in a few words compounded from some given in the preceding Exercise, and also the word "dishabille" (pronounced *disabil*).

Repeat each word containing *h* silent in the middle in the following manner.

First, repeat the part of the word beginning with the silent *h* as "*h*onestly" in the first example, three times, taking great care *not* to prefix the aspirate, and then repeat the whole word slowly three times, with a distinct pause between the first part of the word, and

that part commencing with the silent *h* thus—"dis-*h*onestly." Then repeat the whole word three times, rather faster, without the pause in the middle, but with a pause between each utterance of the whole word. Use the finger during all this practice, and then repeat the word without using the finger.

Then repeat each word beginning with *h* aspirated as directed in Exercise I., and each word beginning with a vowel as directed in Exercise III.; each in the order in which they occur in this Exercise. Then, repeat each sentence three times, the first time not louder than is necessary to be heard in a small room and in a low pitch, the second time loudly and in your middle pitch, and then louder and higher, still using the finger. Afterwards, repeat the sentence without using the finger.

I think HE HAS *a*cted very dis*h*onestly.
He *i*s *a*lmost *a*lways *i*n *a*n *i*ll-*h*umour.
It is most dis*h*onouring to HIM.
They *a*re co-*h*eir *a*nd co-*h*eiress to the *e*state.
He lost the situation *o*n *a*ccount *o*f HIS dis*h*onesty.
The bill was dis*h*onoured.
Dis*h*onour was never *a*ttached to HIS name.
Your *u*ncle *i*s *a*lways good-*h*umoured.
I never HEARD *o*f HIS HAVING *a*cted dis*h*onourably *i*n *a*ny way.
*I a*m *a*stonished to HEAR that *a* man WHO HAS HITHERTO been *e*steemed so HIGHLY *h*onourable, should HAVE *a*cted so dis*h*onourably.
*U*nwept, *unh*onoured, *a*nd *u*nsung.
His wife *i*s *a*lways HIGHLY dressed *o*ut *o*f HER HOME, *a*nd nev*e*r *i*n *a*nything but dis*h*abille *a*t HOME.

Observations and Exercises

ON

THE LETTER R

After H, the letter R is the worst used letter in the English Alphabet. By most persons, it is very imperfectly articulated, being given softly at the beginning of words, and altogether omitted when occurring at the end; such words as court, form, lord, being pronounced ca*w*t, fa*w*m, la*w*d. Foppish affectation changes its fine, manly sound into that of *W*, even at the beginning of words.

This Dundrearyism is "*tw*uly *w*idiculous," and more worthy a monkey than a man, yet it has become fashionable, not only among a certain number of brainless "swells," but has been assumed, together with many other effeminate habits and mannerisms, by brave-hearted gentlemen; whose minced speech and foppish manner completely belie the inner man. These gentlemen would scorn to do an unmanly act, but they are not ashamed to murder the Queen's English by use of the slang, and to imitate the speech and manner of a fool.

Some persons are unable to pronounce the R, either from natural defect, or from bad habit generally acquired when children, through the carelessness or negligence of parents or nurses. By attending to the following directions, and daily practising the Exercises given, any one may, in a few weeks, correct the fault, or, in the worst case of natural defect, greatly modify or conceal it.

R has two sounds—the strong vibratory *R*, heard at the beginning of words and of syllables, as in *rage, error;* and the smooth *R*, which is heard at the termination of words, or when it is succeeded by a consonant. The first is formed by jarring the tongue against the roof of

the mouth, near the fore-teeth; letting the tip of the tongue rapidly strike the back of the upper teeth; and the second, by a vibration of the lower part of the tongue near the root against the inward region of the palate. In some parts of Ireland, the *R* before the final consonant, as in *card*, is pronounced with the force of the commencing *R*, accompanied by a strong aspiration at the beginning of the letter: whereas in England, and particularly in London, it is entirely sunk, and the word sounds as if written *caad*. The Scotch frequently give it with more roughness and clearness at the termination than at the beginning. But the sound which they give at the commencement is not the English terminational sound: it is a negligent and imperfect quivering of the first English *R*. In such words as *thorn*, *worm*, many of the Scotch as well as the Irish sound the two final letters, as if they formed a separate syllable. Many persons from indolence or inattention, instead of quivering the tip of the tongue in this letter, give it a burring sound by quivering the epiglottis. In looking into the mouth of these persons, on desiring them to sound *R*, the tongue is seen thrust behind the lower teeth; by causing them to lift up the tongue, balance it in the mouth, and then breathe strongly, they will frequently at once give the true sound of the letter. The difficulty afterwards lies in teaching the terminational *R*, which they will for a time give with the old sound; in such cases they should use the first *R*, though it is harsh, and soften it gradually.

Faults in pronouncing the letter R, may be divided into six classes:—

Fault I. Changing the sound of R when beginning a word, as *w*ough for rough, or giving it the sound of the smooth R, instead of the rough R.

To correct this fault, pronounce each of the words commencing with R in the following Exercise, three times

loudly and rapidly, attending to the directions previously given, for pronouncing the initial R. Then repeat the whole sentence conversationally.

A rude rustic. The rear rank.
A rapidly rushing river. A round robin.
Rending the rough rocks. Right and wrong.
The regiment ransacked the royal residence.

FAULT II. Omitting or indistinctly giving the sound of R, when it occurs towards the end of a word or syllable, as caad for card. To correct this fault, practise the following Exercise, as directed for the preceding, taking care to give the smooth R, as previously directed.

Scorn not the bard. Burning words.
Turn to the right. A card party.
The first word. The third of March.
Part of the park. Every rose bears a thorn.

FAULT III. Changing or softening the sound of R, when beginning a syllable in the middle of a word, as Dwuwy Lane—for Drury Lane. To correct this fault, repeat each syllable beginning with, or ending with the letter, three times loudly and rapidly; then repeat the word three times with a distinct pause between each syllable; afterwards repeat the word three times without any pause between the syllables; and then repeat the whole sentence conversationally.

He is a very arrogant, irritable man.
Far flashed the red artillery. A writ of error.
The reign of terror. A terrible catastrophe.
I hear that Sir Harry has been thrown from a restive mare, which he persisted in riding, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his friends.

FAULT IV. Inserting a vowel sound between the R and a preceding consonant, as ber-east for breast. To correct this fault, repeat each of such words in the fol-

lowing sentences, three times very fast, taking great care not to introduce any sound, between the two consonants. Then repeat the whole sentence conversationally.

His brow was red with rage. Brass armour.
The brightest gem in the British crown.
A triumph of art. Prove the truth.
A brave warrior rushed to her rescue.
The prize is a silver arrow.
The brothers were both drowned at the Regatta.

FAULT V. Adding the sound of the rough R at the end of a word or syllable, terminating with a vowel, as a thawr for a thaw; a straw-rat, for a straw hat; a drawring-room for a drawing-room. To correct this most vulgar habit, repeat each word in the following sentences in which the final vowel is italicised, three times, taking, care not to add the sound of R, and then repeat the sentence conversationally.

Tell Maria that her mamma saw her.
The Law of marriage. A raw rabbit.
A flaw in the drawing up of the agreement.
Sarah has trimmed your straw hat.

FAULT VI. This, the opposite of the preceding, consists in neglecting to give the final R, especially when the succeeding word commences with a vowel, as inferia ink for inferior ink, and is frequently committed by educated persons through fear of falling into the preceding fault. To correct this fault, practise the words containing R final, as for Fault II.

Superior marble.
A traitor to his sovereign. A learned author.
Neither one nor the other. In our ranks.
Barristers and lawyers. A horror of war.
The fourth turning round the corner. More rumours.
Terror of falling. The meter is right. Peter has come.

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